

Docket No. 7855 NP1

CLAIMS

- A. Cancel all remaining claims: 1-3, 6, 10, 14-16, 19, 28, 35-36, 69-77, 84, 91-93, 119 and 140.
- B. Insert new claims 147-153.

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I claim:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
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- 22. (Canceled).
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- 110. (Canceled).
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132. (Canceled).

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145. (Canceled).

146. (Canceled).

147. (New)A method of purifying juice obtained from plant material, comprising the steps of:

- a. obtaining plant material;
- b. removing juice from said plant material to obtain a process liquid, wherein said process liquid contains sucrose, non-sucrose substances, and water, and wherein a portion of said non-sucrose substances comprise dissolved material;
- c. heating said process liquid to a temperature between about 55.degree. C. to about 80.degree. C.;
- d. introducing a mixture of gases into said process liquid;

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- e. establishing a process liquid-gas interface area between said process liquid and said mixture of gases; and
 - f. reducing concentration of said dissolved material within said process liquid to less than the initial concentration of said dissolved material in said process liquid.
148. (New)A method of purifying juice obtained from plant material as described in claim 147, further comprising the steps of:
- a. spreading said process liquid over the surface area of a container; and
 - b. venting the interior of said container to atmosphere.
149. (New)A method of purifying juice obtained from plant material as described in claim 148, wherein said step of spreading said process liquid over the surface area of a container comprises applying centrifugal forces to said process liquid.
150. (New)A method of purifying juice obtained from plant material as described in claim 148, wherein said step of applying centrifugal forces to said process liquid comprises centrifugal forces greater than three times gravity.
151. (New)A method of purifying juice obtained from plant material as described in claim 150, further comprising the steps of: a. dispersing said process liquid to increase said process liquid-gas interface; and b. flowing a mixture of gases through dispersed process liquid.
152. (New)A method of purifying juice obtained from plant material as described in claim 151, further comprising the steps of: a. dispersing said process liquid to increase said process liquid-gas interface; and b. reducing partial pressure of gases at said liquid-gas interface.
153. (New)A method of purifying juice obtained from plant material as described in claim 152, wherein said step of reducing partial pressure of gases at said liquid-gas interface comprises generating partial pressures of gases below atmospheric pressure.

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